



GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$51.1 BILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR TENNESSEE RESIDENTS



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The new Republican budget reflects upside-down priorities – it would shower the wealthiest few Americans with an average tax cut of at least \$150,000 – paying for it by ending Medicare as we know it, taking away the benefits Americans enjoy as a result of health reform, and putting more of the burden on middle class families. Their plan to block grant and cut \$1.7 trillion in health care services through Medicaid would put an end to vital services that seniors depend on like nursing home care and home health aides. If Republicans get their way, Tennessee residents would lose \$51.1 billion in health benefits, including \$9.0 billion for seniors, and 792,000 residents could see their coverage cut entirely.

Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 792,000 Tennessee Residents Off Medicaid. Medicaid currently provides health coverage to roughly 1,266,200 Tennessee residents, with the federal government picking up 66.40% of Tennessee's Medicaid costs. At a minimum, the Ryan Plan could remove as many as 792,000 Tennessee residents from the program. [CBPP, 3/20/12; Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/2011; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, 5/11]

Republican Budget Cuts \$9.0 billion in Health Care for Tennessee Seniors By Slashing Medicaid. The House Republican budget could slash \$9.0 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. In Tennessee, over 329,300 seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, 26.10% of Medicaid spending in Tennessee provides this critical care for seniors, and is often the only avenue they have to get the care they need. The cost of long-term care can be financially devastating to seniors and their families, with nursing home costs averaging \$69,715 in Tennessee for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 320 Tennessee certified nursing homes, which serve 32,060 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors. [Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; MetLife, 10/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12]

Tennessee Would Receive Far Less Federal Investment Than Other States Under Republican Block Grant Plan. Tennessee Medicaid expenditure levels are relatively low (\$4,678 per enrollee) compared to the US average (\$5,337 per enrollee). Because the block grant funding levels are based on current state Medicaid spending, Tennessee would receive less block grant funding than other states. [KFF, accessed on 3/21/12]

